tacts a substantially horizontal surface, and the keyboard faces the substantially horizontal surface.

11. The portable computer of claim **10**, wherein the navigation control includes a scroll wheel disposed at least partially about the axis of rotation of the display component relative to the base.

12. The portable computer of claim **11**, wherein the scroll wheel provides a default action which effects manipulation of the at least one of the operating parameters of the portable computer, wherein the default action is defined differently responsive to a display mode of the portable computer.

13. The portable computer of claim **10**, further comprising a first navigation button user-accessible in each of the laptop mode and the easel mode, and configured to permit the user to manipulate selected content displayed on the screen.

14. The portable computer of claim **13**, wherein the screen is configured to display at least one of a plurality of modes of content; and

wherein the first navigation button is configured to permit the user to select for display one of the plurality of modes of content.

15. The portable computer of claim **13**, further comprising a second navigation button that is not user-accessible when the portable computer is in the easel mode.

16. The portable computer of claim **10**, wherein an operating display mode is selected from the plurality of display modes based on a physical orientation of the portable computer.

17. The portable computer of claim **10**, wherein an operating display mode is selected from the plurality of display modes in response to operation of the navigation control.

18. A portable computer configurable between a plurality of display modes including a laptop mode and an easel mode wherein transitions between the plurality of display modes allow an operator to interact with a single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, the portable computer comprising:

a base including a keyboard;

a main display component including the single display screen configured to display content;

a hinge assembly disposed at least partially within the base configured to rotatably couple the main display component to the base, the hinge assembly defining a longitudinal axis running along an interface between the display component and the base about which the display component and the base are rotatable to transition the portable computer between at least the laptop mode and the easel mode, wherein the transition between the laptop mode and the easel mode allows the operator to operate the portable computer while viewing the single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, wherein

the laptop mode is configured to display to a user on the main display component a first content mode having a first content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented to receive input from the user;

the easel mode is configured to display to the user on the main display component a second content mode having a second content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented away from the user, wherein the first and second content display orientations are 180 degrees relative to each other, and wherein the portable computer is operable in the easel mode to enable the user to interact with displayed content without interacting with the keyboard; and

a navigation control disposed at least partially about the longitudinal axis wherein the plurality of modes includes a frame mode in which the main display component is oriented towards the operator, the base contacts a substantially horizontal surface, and the keyboard faces the substantially horizontal surface.

19. The portable computer of claim **18**, wherein the navigation control includes a scroll wheel configured to permit a user to manipulate the content displayed on the screen.

20. The portable computer of claim **18**, wherein the navigation control includes a scroll wheel configured to permit a user to control a volume of sound played by the portable computer.

21. The portable computer of claim **18**, wherein the navigation control includes a scroll wheel disposed at least partially within the hinge assembly.

22. The portable computer of claim **18**, further comprising at least one navigation button disposed on one of the base and the display component.

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